UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/7/Add.6
19 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 107

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Section 21. Human rights

Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has received the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/49/53) on Section 21 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, by its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, established the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In that connection, the Secretary-General had submitted a statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/48/61) indicating that, while the High Commissioner would draw on the resources of the Centre for Human Rights to fulfil his tasks, a number of additional posts would need to be established with operational funds totalling $1,471,400. The Assembly did not approve the establishment of those posts. However, it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into all the commitments necessary within the above amount in respect of the full implementation of the activities envisaged in resolution 48/141.

3. By its resolution 48/121 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993; in a related statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/48/46) the Secretary-General indicated that 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 2 General Service posts would be required, with operational funds totalling $1,167,500. The General Assembly did not approve the establishment of those posts. However, it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into all the commitments necessary within the above amount in respect of the full implementation of the activities envisaged in resolution 48/121.

4. In addition, the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to $1,834,100 under section 21 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the financing of human rights activities in Cambodia.

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/228 of 23 December 1993, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to review the allocation of resources among the approved programmes in section 21 of the programme budget so as to ensure the most effective delivery of all mandated activities. It also requested information relating to redeployment, conversion and creation of posts, with a table indicating existing posts, a precise description of the functions to be performed, an explanation of the programmatic justifications of the redeployment and an update of the proceedings relating to the Vienna Programme of Action. In this regard, the Advisory Committee, in its report A/48/7/Add.10, had indicated that it considered the information contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/48/77) a partial response to the General Assembly's request. The Committee further stated that upon receipt of the information and the finalization of the assessment of the High Commissioner's requirements, the Committee would revert to the consideration of the staffing and functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Centre for Human Rights.

6. As indicated in paragraphs 2 to 4 above, the General Assembly has authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments totalling $4,473,000. Of this amount, the Advisory Committee was informed that it is anticipated that expenditures up to 31 December 1994 for the Office of the High Commissioner, the Vienna Programme of Action and human rights activities in Cambodia would total $1,663,100, including general operating expenses. At its request, the Committee was informed that these activities for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1995 are estimated at $591,200.

7. In view of the fact that the Secretary-General's report has been received by the Advisory Committee only on 16 December 1994, it is not possible for the Committee to adequately consider the related requests at this time. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the amount of $1,663,100 which has actually been expended up to 31 December 1994 pursuant to the existing commitment authority be appropriated under section 21 of the programme budget for 1994-1995 subject to the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund. Such requirements as may arise pending further consideration of the Secretary-General's report by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly can be met from within the balance of $2,218,700 remaining in the existing commitment authority under General Assembly resolutions 48/121 and 48/141 of 20 December 1993 and 48/228 of 23 December 1993.